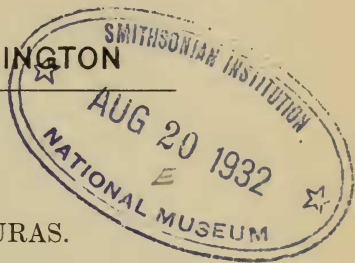


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW BLETIA FROM HONDURAS.

BY OAKES AMES.

Among orchids collected by J. B. Edwards in the Republic of Honduras, near Tegucigalpa, a new species of *Bletia* is represented. It is comparable with *B. tuberosa* comb nov. (*Limodorum tuberosum* L. Sp. Pl. ed. 1, 2 (1753) 950), in having seven distinct keels that pass through the disc longitudinally, but it is quite different in having larger flowers and a strikingly dissimilar habit. It is also closely allied to *Bletia fulgens* Reichb. f., from which it differs in the keels of the labellum and in the smaller flowers which are of a rich rose-purple color, rather than orange.

Bletia Edwardsi Ames, sp. nov.

Radices fibratae, breviter pubescentes. Folia elliptico-lanceolata, acuminata, acuta. Scapus validus. Racemus plus minusve decemflorus. Flores pro genere magni, purpurei. Sepala lateralia elliptico-lanceolata, acuta, glabra. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala elliptico-oblonga, acuta, glabra. Labellum ultra medium conspicue trilobatum. Discus carinis septem ornatus. Columna prope basim bialata.

Roots coarsely fibrous, whitish, finely and shortly pubescent. Corm more or less ovoid or globose, 2.5 cm. long, pale green, somewhat wrinkled, glossy, concealed by closely appressed nervose scarious sheaths. Leaves arising from near the summit of the corm, two, 22-32 cm. long, 4-4.5 cm. wide, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, acute, chartaceous, the lowermost one contracted into a cylindrical stem-like petiole 10.5 cm. long, sheathing the petiole of the uppermost leaf; visible part of the petiole of the upper leaf slender, 5.5 cm. long. Scape rather stout, exceeding the leaves, rising laterally from the corm. Raceme 20.5 cm. long, bearing about 10 rose-purple flowers. Bracts of the raceme 4-8 mm. long, broadly triangular, acute. Pedicels with the ovary 2.5-3.5 cm. long when the flowers are expanding, smooth, obliquely ascending or almost erect. Flowers distant, about 3 cm. long. Lateral sepals 2.8 cm. long, 8 mm. wide, elliptic-lanceolate, acute, fleshy or thickened at the tip, smooth. Dorsal sepal similar.

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Petals about 2.5 cm. long, 8 mm. wide, elliptic-oblong, acute, membranaceous, smooth. Labellum dilated upward from a cuneiform base, 2.6 cm. long, 3-lobed; lateral lobes more or less converging over the column, porrect, rounded, 6 mm. wide; apical lobe broadly reniform or orbicular, 11 mm. wide, retuse, apiculate; disc 7-carinate, the two outermost keels much abbreviated, much exceeded by the lateral lobes, the three central keels much longer, extending to the middle of the middle lobe where they become expanded, erect, rounded and complanate, the remaining keels hardly extend to the base of the middle lobe. Column about 2 cm. long, dilated upwards, with a conspicuous membranaceous wing on each side near the base.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Tegucigalpa, Vicinity of San Juancito. "Peña Blanca." *J. B. Edwards 24*, August 9, 1931. Altitude 5000-6000 feet. Terrestrial in cloud-forest. (Type in Herb. Ames 37,774.)